
From: Chris SanGiovanni [mailto:chrissangi@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 18, 2007 3:40 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: ptarena@mcn.org
Subject: MLPA Point Arena to Gualala

Dear Melissa Miller-Henson

How can you have Puplic Participation if your server is always down on your web site for Puplic Participation?

The host 'smtp' could not be found. Please verify that you have entered the server name correctly. Account: 'pop3', Server: 'smtp', Protocol: SMTP, Port: 25, Secure(SSL): No, Socket Error: 11001, Error Number: 0x800CCC0D

Nov 18, 2007

TO: Independent Coast Observer
Letter To The Editor
and
MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov

Editor,

I have attended numerous meetings and conferences in the last few weeks to learn about the Marine Life Protection Act, the proposed areas for preservation, and how the implementation of these proposals will effect our community and my lifestyle. I am very concerned that the MLPA proposals will drastically limit the accessibility of commercial and sport fishing and diving grounds. I believe in the goal of the MLPA which is to develop and maintain a network of marine protected areas to protect our waters from the threat of coastal development, water pollution and other human activities. However after hearing and seeing the proposed areas I feel like they are trying to take too much of our most premium areas.

I am an active maritime man, surfer, fisherman and diver. Due to wind and tide elements the predominant fishing grounds for Pt Arena fisherman are just north of Pt Arena Cove – this is the same area that the MLPA are proposing to close. If our fishing grounds were closed to the north it would force us to fish south of the Cove. Due to the winds and currents this could inhibit our safe return. This would also force fisherman to go around the preserve areas which would be more costly and a greater risk..

I am a property owner in Gualala and Point Arena. Like so many of us, we moved here to live a more healthy, life by growing and gathering our own food. **Our goal is to attain a lifestyle which is centered on eating foods within our own foodshed.** This includes the utilization of the marine resources available on our Coast Now our access to these resources may be greatly limited by the enforcement of the Marine Life Protection Act.

Furthermore, The implementation of the MLPA will have negative economic impacts on Pt Arena and Gualala. If fishing grounds are limited and we have less fisherman – the Pt Arena Pier will not be able to support itself. This will also impact businesses at the pier. Coastal residents will lose their ability to purchase fresh, local fish. We do not want to drive to Costco for farm raised fish!

The MPA proposals show that they want at least 50% of our coastline from Pt Arena to Gualala. Doesn't it make sense that instead of restricting our area which has low populations and high resources to focusing on those areas which are densely populated and whose resources are more threatened. The Central Coast Marine Protection area which has been implemented - is only about 18% of the central coast and this area supports a greater population density. It seems we are being penalized because we have great resources.

I feel the decision process is being presented as if it were fair but in reality they picked their own judges (Blue Ribbon Task Force) and jury (Stakeholders). It seems the decisions have already been made and the public has no influence. I don't feel I can trust the process which is over weighted by big government bureaucracy and kelp hugging scientist.

Chris SanGiovanni